



## As Push Comes to Shove Smart Growth Report

*By Kristin Kelly, Smart Growth Director*

As Smart Growth Executive Director, I spend much time advocating for Smart Growth-endorsed policies and regulations to deal with future growth and development in Snohomish County. I've been writing about the county's Comprehensive Plan Update process for many months - we all know how much our county has changed over the last 25 years since the Growth Management Act was adopted.

I can assure you that what locations are chosen by our county to accommodate the next 20 years of growth will impact your life in some way. We are preparing for another 200,000 people. Not only will more housing be needed, but we will need new roads, utilities, schools, first responder protection, and, hopefully, parks. We need our decision-makers to be "smart" about planning for this growth.

Most of the growth is planned to go into Everett and Lynnwood with some into other cities. Some of the growth will also go into our unincorporated urban growth areas, especially in the Southwest Urban Growth Area (SWUGA) around Bothell and Mill Creek.

### ***The big question is, how much should go into Everett versus the SWUGA?***

We are supporting Alternative 1 versus Alternative 3 because more population should go into Everett than in the SWUGA. Alternative 3 would reduce Everett's population target by 15,000 people and would direct that growth into the fringes of SWUGA. That puts more pressure to expand the UGA into rural land and into an area which lacks roads and services.

When you think of 15,000 in terms of 200,000, it doesn't seem like much. Yet, when you see 15,000 people and then try to imagine providing homes for them (keeping in mind that these people will be driving to jobs, shopping, and recreation), it really is a lot of people.

The cities are updating their growth management plans as well. Everett is not enthused about having an extra 15,000 people. While Everett's planning director admits there is more than enough land to accommodate these folks, he doesn't believe the "market" will be there unless Sound Transit 3 Light Link Rail system will be built before 2035...something we won't know about until at least next year.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## May Program Meeting Sandhill Crane Natural History, Range & Migration in the Pacific Flyway

*Gary Ivey*

**Friday, May 8, 7:00 PM**



Gary Ivey will talk about the three Sandhill Crane populations that breed and migrate through Washington. He will discuss their biology, migration routes, wintering areas and breeding needs, plus their conservation needs. Gary works for International Crane Foundation, and focuses his work on research and conservation of Sandhill Cranes in the Pacific Flyway.

He received his PhD from Oregon State University for his study of wintering ecology of Sandhill Cranes.

He is working to advance conservation of cranes, swans and other water birds in Western North America.

7:00 - 8:30 pm

Everett Firefighter's Hall

2411 Hewitt Avenue, Everett WA

For more information, leave message at 425-610-8027

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Teresa Lorenz, from the University of Idaho and our program speaker in April, is looking for volunteers to help with eastern Washington woodpecker research.

Help is especially needed to review video footage at nest sites (June to December - this requires a personal computer). For those who are field-savvy, enjoy hiking, and don't mind getting a little dirty, help is always needed to radio-track juvenile White-headed Woodpeckers (July to November).

**If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Teresa Lorenz (email: [tlorenz@fs.fed.us](mailto:tlorenz@fs.fed.us); phone: 509-731-5226)**

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# President's Report

By Kathleen Snyder, Pilchuck Audubon President

Our annual membership meeting was held on April 10th, before our monthly program. The members elected Terry Nightingale as Vice-president and Carolyn Lacy as Treasurer. This is Terry's second term and Carolyn will be starting her 12th year as our treasurer. Many thanks to these fine people who continue to serve Pilchuck Audubon.

Also, Duane Karna received Pilchuck Audubon's highest award for volunteer involvement at the April program meeting. Duane was compiler of our south circle Christmas Bird Count for the last four years. He expanded the number of volunteers involved (especially the number of home feeder counters), produced new maps to use for the count, involved high school and college students, and spent hours on reconciling historic National Audubon records with Pilchuck Audubon records. Duane will still be involved in the yearly count; he loves to do a marine count from his boat when the weather permits. Pilchuck salutes and thanks our 2014 Volunteer of the Year!

Your Pilchuck board sponsors a Birdathon team each year. This year it will include Kathy Piland, Virginia Clark, Jim Beneteau, and me. We are a force to be reckoned with and we are looking for pledges. Please contact me at [president@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:president@pilchuckaudubon.org) to support the best team in the universe!

Be sure to check out our newest Flights of Fancy website posting. Rick Brauer shares a humorous anecdote which truly is a "Close Encounter of a Bird Kind".

## 2014 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!

Duane Karna receives the volunteer award



Photo by Rex Guichard

## About Pilchuck Audubon Society

The Pilchuck Audubon Profile, official newsletter of Pilchuck Audubon Society is published monthly.

Pilchuck Audubon Society (PAS) is a grass-roots environmental organization with members throughout Snohomish County and Camano Island, Washington.

Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, for the benefit of the earth's biological diversity.

Through education, advocacy, and community activism, PAS is committed to bringing people closer to wildlife in order to build a deeper understanding of the powerful links between healthy ecosystems and human beings, and to encourage the involvement of our members in efforts to protect the habitat this wildlife depends upon

for survival.

We serve as a local chapter of the National Audubon Society. PAS is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt, non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Washington.

### Newsletter submissions

Submit articles to [newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org](mailto:newsletter@pilchuckaudubon.org) or mail to 1429 Avenue D, PMB 198, Snohomish, WA 98290. Submissions must be received by the 21st of the month preceding publication. We reserve the right to edit.

**To contact Pilchuck Audubon Society, call 425.610.8027.**

The monthly Profile is available online at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org)



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# Conservation Report

*By Allen Gibbs, Conservation Committee Chair*

Legislative Update – A Special Session will probably have begun by the time you read this PROFILE. The Regular Session ended April 26th. There is much to be said about the standoff between the Senate and House majorities. News media reports capture that standoff. Senate wants budgets with no new taxes; and House wants budgets with some new taxes. The Senate wants the House to vote a matter of record in favor of new taxes before negotiations continue. House considers that a waste of time, as it wants to negotiate with the Senate before voting out a House budget to the Senate.

On the good news side, Senate Bill 5166 (concerning the management of forage fish resources) was sent to the governor's office for signature on April 16th. Thanks for letters of support to your legislators!

Tufted Puffins have been placed on Washington State's endangered species list. This was done by the WA Fish and Wildlife Commission. Once considered abundant, tufted puffin populations have been in decline in recent decades. WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife will develop a plan recommending steps toward recovery.

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie (MBS) National Forest Plan Revision begins – All NW national forests which have Northern Spotted Owl habitat and populations have taken initial steps to revise their forest management plans which were amended in 1994. This is very early in the plan revision process. Two public meetings hosted by the MBS will have been held by the time the May PROFILE is issued. One was at Mt. Vernon on April 23 and one at Issaquah on April 28th. Some PAS members attended the Mt. Vernon meeting.

These so-called "listening sessions" were to hear from the public its thoughts about: 1) how the planning process could be conducted; 2) offer ideas how science will inform the process; and 3) gather ideas as to how to approach public engagement for forest plan revisions on each individual national forest.

There will be many future meetings in coming years. There is not yet any "start date" for the MBS revised planning or any "end date" for the plan revision completion.

"Lawsuit Filed to Stop Cormorant Slaughter by Federal Agencies" - So reads the headline on a news release issued by Portland Audubon issued April 20th. The chapter is joined by other groups in seeking an injunction to stop implementation of a plan by the US Army Corps, US Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA Wildlife Services to shoot birds mostly in the vicinity of East Sand Island on the lower Columbia River. The plan will destroy 26,000 Double-crested Cormorant nests through oiling of eggs, and hinder chicks being fed where parents are dead. The complaint will proceed with or without the injunction granted. Public comments were received by the federal agencies and a decision was issued to proceed with a 15% reduction of the population west of the Rocky Mountains, but, mostly in the western reaches of the Columbia River.

# Birdathon is Here!

*By Jim Beneteau*

Ganging up on us, are you? Sure hope so since the 2015 Pilchuck Audubon Birdathon is officially underway! The time for forming teams and gathering your pledges is NOW! Team observations start any time between May 15 and May 18.

**The photo contest** times have already begun. Best of the year period, of course, started last May. Enter up to four photos taken anywhere in the world during the past year. (That photo you got last summer in Cambodia of the Giant Ibis would have a very good chance!) For the Big Month, enter up to four bird photos taken in Washington between April 18 and May 18. (Enter both! But the combined limit is six photos).

**The Big Month** team contest (birds observed by teams of 1 to 4 folks) also started April 18 and continues to May 18. Birds seen in Washington during that time can be counted.

**The Big Day** is any 24 hour period between May 15 and May 18 and counts birds observed in Snohomish County and Camano Island. Still time to get organized for this one.

Similarly, the **Sitting Duck** contest is for observations in a 24 hour period but made from within a 200 foot circle!

Here are some targets from last year:

Big month, 211 species; Big day, 113 species; Big Sit (Sitting Duck), 27 species. Biggest pledge amounts, Big Month, \$1900, and Big Day, \$1240.

All the rules are posted on the web site under Programs>Birdathon.

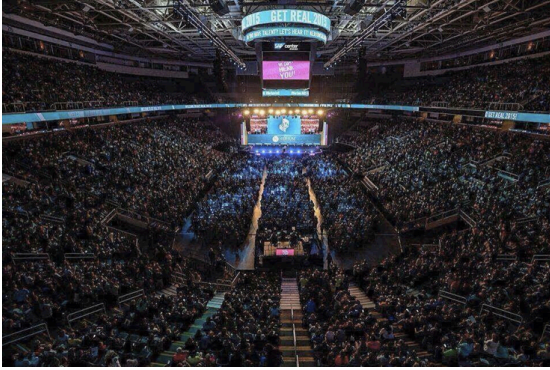
Prizes! Awards Banquet! (Well, desserts, anyway.) Prizes will be awarded Thursday evening, May 21 at the PUD building in Everett. While you don't have to be present, it's so much more fun if you are. (You get to brag in person!)

The Birdathon is our biggest fund-raiser so the more participants and sponsors we get, the more funds we have for our on-going programs. We'd love to beat our total of \$4,340 from last year.

Uncle Sam (Aunt Birdie?) wants you! Form a team, choose a name, and bird, bird, bird! (Oh, yeah; don't forget the sponsors!)

# As Push Comes to Shove...

(Continued from page 1)



[A stadium photo of what 15,000 people looks like.]

Alternative 1, whether or not light link rail gets on the 2016 ballot, mandates that Everett plan for 165,000 people versus the 143,000 Everett would rather plan for under Alternative 3. I believe Alternative 1 is reasonable and prudent because this is a 20-year plan and Alternative 1 will help ensure more growth goes into Everett where infrastructure exists. The cities are updating their growth management plans as well. Everett is not enthused about having an extra 15,000 people. While Everett's planning director admits there is more than enough land to accommodate these folks, he doesn't believe the "market" will be there unless Sound Transit 3 Light Link Rail system will be built before 2035...something we won't know about until at least next year.

Alternative 1, whether or not light link rail gets on the 2016 ballot, mandates that Everett plan for 165,000 people versus the 143,000 Everett would rather plan for under Alternative 3. I believe Alternative 1 is reasonable and prudent because this is a 20-year plan and Alternative 1 will help ensure more growth goes into Everett where infrastructure exists.

Everett is the only city deemed a Metropolitan City in Snohomish County under the regional planning agency Puget Sound Regional Council's Vision 2040. Snohomish County and every city in the county, including Everett, voted for Vision 2040 in 2008. Alternative 1 uses Vision 2040's population targets, meaning that 15,000 extra people need to be planned for in Everett.

With or without the light link rail, Everett should take the growth because it is:

- the only regional transit station in Snohomish County (serving Amtrak, Sound Transit, Community Transit, Island County Transit, Skagit County Transit, and Everett Transit);
- located next to I-5 and the Highway 2;
- home to two hospitals, many medical clinics, churches, banks, theaters, four colleges, the Port of Everett, an arena, a hockey team, a manufacturing center at Paine Field, Boeing, and a slew of restaurants and small businesses that would welcome new residents;
- ripe for redevelopment, not only at the Everett Transit Station area but also along Highway 99, where SWIFT buses run every 12 minutes;
- the best city for creating affordable housing opportunities;
- capable of accommodating the extra population with its current land capacity.

Finding ways to move around without cars is a major way we can tackle our responsibility to decrease greenhouse gas emissions - a major cause of climate change and the acidification of Puget Sound. Alternative 1 supports mass transit in ways that Alternative 3 does not.

Alternative 3, which allows more homes for these 15,000 new residents in the SWUGA, will:

- put more pressure to expand the Urban Growth Area into rural land;
- will create more traffic nightmares on our two-lane county arterials;
- will put more pressure on wildlife and bird habitat;
- will create more water and air quality problems;
- will increase taxes to pay for needed roads and services;
- will not adequately address solutions to climate change.

This is just not a good alternative for the future of our children.

We need to be smarter and more vocal about that future. This is a very important issue that the County Council will be considering and will affect our quality of life. Please join with me at the public hearing at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13th in front of the Snohomish County Council and demand they adopt Alternative 1.

## Chick Rescue

By Pam Myers, former bird rehabilitator

Spring has sprung and baby bird season is upon us. Birds have already fledged babies but many will continue building nests and caring for nestlings into the summer months. This is the busiest time of year for wildlife rehabilitation organizations. You may find a baby bird on the ground and instinctively want to intervene to "rescue" it and bring it to a facility but the baby may not need your help. Here are some tips to help you determine if the bird you find really needs rescuing or not.

**Feathered babies** - Many species of birds spend time on the ground before they can fly. If there are no cats nearby and the parent is seen, leave the birds to their natural "ground training".

**Non-feathered babies** - If possible, put it back into its nest. Parent birds will NOT reject a baby bird if a human has touched it. If you can't do this, please contact PAWS in Lynnwood (425 787 2500) or Sarvey Wildlife Center (360 435 4817) in Arlington. It is critical that you get the babies to a qualified rehabilitation facility as soon as possible. Chicks eat more frequently than humans and have specific diets.

Put the baby in a small box with a few air holes and a lid. Microwave a fuzzy soft cloth for less than 30 seconds and place in the box to keep the baby warm. If you don't have a box, then have a friend hold the bird gently in their hands. Warmth is vital to a bird's survival. Keep the environment as quiet as possible. People often want to croon to baby birds to soothe them but we can't imitate their parents' lullabies and our efforts may stress them.

While it's tempting to try to hand raise a baby bird, it is illegal and 9 times out of 10, it results in the death of a bird that may have been saved. Parent birds feed their young by putting food into their bills. Unless you are a qualified wildlife rehabber and know how to safely feed baby birds, please bring it to a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

One last bit of advice - if you need to tidy up your garden this spring, please put off hedge and bush trimming until late summer when baby season is over. You may find an active nest in your yard. Those messy tangles of vines and overgrown shrubs that appear unsightly to you look wonderful to nesting birds.

# Trip Calendar

Check our web site at [www.pilchuckaudubon.org](http://www.pilchuckaudubon.org) for the latest information.

**Tuesday, May 5** **Snoqualmie River Valley**  
Meet at 8:00 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2, 0.5 mile west of the fairgrounds. Expect a fun time and exciting birds. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, May 12** **Cle Elum Area**  
Meet at 6:30 AM at the Monroe Park and Ride, on Highway 2, 0.5 mile west of the fairgrounds. All day trip. Different birds: Red-naped Sapsucker, Northern Goshawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird, Magpie, Vesper Sparrow, and Cassin's Finch possible. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

**Saturday, May 16** **Edmonds**  
Meet at 8:00AM parking area by the pool at Yost Park. Walk around trails at varying elevations, then walk over to Pine Ridge Park. May drive to Edmonds marsh and its surroundings. Bring snacks, water and wet gear (if needed). Half-day event.  
Trip Leader: Frank Caruso 774-238-0698 [fcarus@umass.edu](mailto:fcarus@umass.edu)

**Tuesday, May 19** **North Whidbey Island**  
Meet at 7:30 AM at Quilceda Village Walmart. We will bird Deception Pass State Park, Ala Spit, Dugualla Bay, Swantown and areas enroute. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

**Tuesday, May 26** **Leavenworth Area**  
Meet at 6:30 AM at Monroe Park and Ride on Highway 2. We will go up Icicle Creek and certainly try for the Calliope Hummingbird and Lazuli Bunting in Camas Meadows. Pack a lunch.  
Trip Leader: Virginia Clark 360-435-3750

## Upcoming Events, Festivals and Classes

**Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival**  
**May 1 – 3** **Hoquiam**  
Each spring, hundreds of thousands of shorebirds stop to rest and feed in Grays Harbor estuary on their migration northward. Coming from as far south as Argentina, these Arctic-bound shorebirds are among the world's greatest migrants. Some birds travel over 15,000 miles round trip! Tens of thousands of shorebirds feed on the open mudflats in the estuary.  
[shorebirdfestival.com](http://shorebirdfestival.com)

**Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest**  
**May 14 – 17** **Leavenworth**  
The Leavenworth area features spectacular habitats ranging from snow-capped mountains to sunny ponderosa pine forests, lush riparian zones to shrub-steppe. All our field trips are led by experts and professionals in their field. Hear birdsongs sung only during the breeding season while you stroll, bike, boat, or van during the height of wildflower season.  
[www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com](http://www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com)

**Mother Humming Bird Story**  
**May 15** **Mill Creek**  
Documenting the lucky finding of the tiny hummingbird's nest on the clothesline in their new home in Las Vegas, the Carroll's turned the story of Honey, the mother hummingbird

and her little chicks into a book and a movie. This charming 45-minute documentary invites you to witness personal life of hummingbirds. 7:00PM  
This movie is FREE, however, you must register in advance 425-316-8592  
[www.streamkeeper.org](http://www.streamkeeper.org)

**Wenas Creek Audubon Campout**  
**May 22 – 25** **Wenas Creek**  
The gathering is held in the vicinity Ellensburg within the Wenas Creek Campground. Camping is primitive. There are "campfire"\* programs on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, and field trips (both birding trips and wildflower trips) scheduled Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Love of nature of all varieties means there may be insect hunts or bat watching as well.  
[www.wenasaudubon.org](http://www.wenasaudubon.org)

## Granite Falls Motocross Track Final(?) Decision

The Mountain Loop Conservancy, North Cascades Conservation Council and PAS appealed the Hearing Examiner's (HE) December 2014 decision to the Snohomish County Council (SCC). A hearing was held on February 11, 2015 and continued on three additional dates in March. The SCC ultimately upheld the HE's decision (to grant the Conditional Use Permit and rezone and deny the SEPA appeal) with one significant modification: The entire sound berm must be built prior to track operation.

At the final deliberation on March 6, 2015, the SCC considered a motion by Dave Somers to continue the hearing, but the motion died for lack of a second. The Council then went into a 30-minute executive session. Upon reconvening, Councilmembers Terry Ryan and Kevin Kline recused themselves, "out of an abundance of caution" because of potential "ex parte" communications with Motocross supporters, and left the hearing room.

The County Council voted three to zero to affirm the Hearing Examiner's decision, with the amendment to construct the berm prior to track operation.

Council Chair Dave Somers at first voted in favor of our appeal, but ultimately voted with the majority to assure that the sound berm would be fully constructed prior to track operation. Ginger Amundsen and Martin Robinett have filed an appeal with the Superior Court based on procedural issues. MLC is listed as an "interested party," but NCCC and PAS have not joined this appeal as we felt the conditions already applied—especially the requirement to construct the full sound berm prior to operations—were the best outcome we could hope for.

## Singletary Timber Sale

PAS worked with representatives of other organizations (Friends of Wild Sky, Alpine Lakes Protection Society, Friends of Wild Sky, North Cascades Conservation Council, Sierra Club, and Washington Wild) to stop the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from clear-cutting land adjacent to Wallace Falls State Park. This logging will obliterate a new trail that the DNR is building to connect with the popular Wallace Falls trail. Snohomish County had recently purchased land for a trailhead.

Unless the DNR decides to withdraw the sale, which they have shown no indication of doing, the logging will occur. We had hoped that this land would be included in the recent additions to the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area, preserving it for recreation and wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, you can expect to see a large clear-cut next to Wallace Falls in the near future.

Pilchuck Audubon Society  
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290



## Pilchuck Audubon Society Membership Information

Support your local Audubon chapter by becoming a member. PAS dues are tax deductible (consult your tax professional for details). The PAS tax ID number is 91-6183664.

- New Member ..... \$28
- Renewal ..... \$28
- Lifetime Member ..... \$1,000
  - 10 monthly payments of \$100
  - 4 quarterly payments of \$250
  - 1 payment of \$1,000
- Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - My employer will match my contribution!  
My employer's gift matching form is enclosed with my contribution.

Make checks payable to: Pilchuck Audubon Society

Mail to: Pilchuck Audubon Society  
1429 Avenue D, PMB 198  
Snohomish, WA 98290-1742

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Send me these via email (check all that apply & include your email address above):

- Profile Newsletter
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